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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL

JFK ACT
RELEASE

Mr. B.: LEADER

Original & 2 copies of attached delivered to Mr. Bolten by Mr. Leader at 14:50, 6 Dec. '76.

Bert Good

For transition
1cy filed "Task Force"
1cy filed S.D. B Chrono
1cy filed IC Chrono
This is extra cy.

APPROVED FOR RELEASE 1993
CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

6 December 1976

CIA and the Investigations of the Assassination of President Kennedy

1. From the day of the assassination of President Kennedy by Lee Harvey Oswald, and in support of the various inquiries that have been conducted subsequently, CIA has contributed to the considerations of the various investigative authorities.

2. Immediately following President Kennedy's assassination on 22 November 1963, CIA conducted an intensive inquiry into information that it had concerning Lee Harvey Oswald. A number of overseas stations were tasked to provide such information as they might have, with the station in Mexico City receiving special attention because of Oswald's visit there from 27 September through 3 October 1963. With the appointment of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy (the Warren Commission) CIA functioned in support of that investigation. CIA reporting was provided to the FBI, and extensive materials were supplied to the Warren Commission in response to its various requests and lines of inquiry.

3. The next full-scale investigations were conducted in 1975. The first of these was by the Commission on CIA Activities Within the United States (the Rockefeller Commission). Staff members were given access to Agency files concerning Oswald and the Warren Commission investigation. A number of special studies were prepared for the Rockefeller Commission on questions of special interest. The final report of the Rockefeller Commission devoted a chapter to Allegations Concerning the Assassination of President Kennedy (Chapter 19). That chapter noted that allegations had been made that the CIA participated in the assassination of President Kennedy and "concluded there was no credible evidence of any CIA involvement."

4. Also in 1975 the U.S. Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities (the Church Committee) conducted a study of alleged assassination plots involving foreign leaders, on which an interim report was published on 20 November 1975. The Church Committee also conducted a study of the performance of the intelligence agencies during the investigation by the Warren Commission, on which it published a report dated 23 April 1976 (The Investigation of the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy: Performance of the Intelligence Agencies). Various questions raised in this report have led to an extensive research effort by CIA in an attempt to address those unresolved questions on which the Agency has some record. This research is nearing completion and the final results should be made available in the near future. In September 1976, the House of Representatives approved the formation of a Select Committee on Assassinations (the Downing Committee). The Committee and a small cadre of staff members at present are engaged in planning for the investigation and preparing its proposal to the House of Representatives for the full staff and its budget for investigation of assassinations of President Kennedy and the Reverend Martin Luther King. The staff has conducted some brief preliminary investigations into certain newspaper allegations.

5. CIA has had a number of preliminary meetings with Mr. Richard Sprague, the chief counsel and staff director of the Downing Committee. These discussions concern working arrangements for access to classified information, including security standards and practice. Additionally, classified information has been made available to Mr. Sprague bearing on issues selected for preliminary investigation. Pending completion of working arrangements, material released by CIA in response to requests under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) has been passed to Mr. Sprague. An extensive review of these materials has been underway since April 1976, for FOIA release; as additional documents are approved for release, copies will be delivered to Mr. Sprague. As soon as working arrangements are completed, and the Downing Committee staff is organized, it is expected that committee staff members will have access to Agency files at CIA.

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